

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
October 28, 2010

Present: Knox (chair), Ames, Roberts, Smith, Milius, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of the September 9, 2010 meeting were accepted.

Walton distributed "*The Secret of Turning Consumers Green*" article about the efficacy of peer pressure in changing behavior. Members were asked to read the article and e-mail Walton with their idea of peer pressure strategies that might work to increase recycling in off-campus housing. Walton will be meeting soon with a few UConn EcoHouse students who are interested in taking this on as a project.

Walton reported that she visited the UConn compost facility which manages 30% of the manure generated by UConn's farm operations. The long term plan is to expand the facility to manage 100% of the manure. Future plans do not include dining hall food waste.

Milius reported that she has contacted Big Y and Grand Union about making their grocery store recycling program more visible and actively promoting bag reuse. She is awaiting responses. She spoke to candidate Greg Haddad on Candidate's Night who expressed support for a State retail bag law similar to what was proposed two sessions ago.

Walton reported her findings on automated trash service. Many Connecticut communities are now converted to automated collection. A few haulers provide 32 gallon, 65 gallon and 96 gallon trash cans, and charge according to the size. Walton found that Rehrig Pacific sells an 18 gallon can and is inquiring about its cost. Willimantic Waste Paper stated that a 5 year contract is the minimum amount of time to front fund the cost of the cans. Hultgren stated that the waste industry is converting to automated service and the committee should consider how soon the Town should switch over. Concern was expressed about putting the current family owned hauler out of business with the move to automated collection. Staff will ask Willimantic Waste Paper for an estimate of a cost per household if Mansfield switched to automated.

Walton stated that UConn was going to supply two pairs of trash/recycling containers, like the ones that they have on campus, for the Hunting Lodge Road walkway, but they have encountered snags with the vendor. Staff will find out if other towns have surplus cans; otherwise the Town will purchase two rugged cans with UConn's promise to reimburse the cost. The employee who picks up litter along Hunting Lodge Road will be asked to sort through the refuse in the trash cans, to pull out the recyclables. Ames suggested placing basketball hoops above the trash cans to encourage compliance through humor and reduce litter along this thoroughfare.

Walton reported that the State electronics law should go into effect any time now, which will allow residents to recycle their electronics for free. When the approved electronics recycler list is posted on the DEP website, the State law will be considered effective.

The committee was informed that phase one of the Storrs Center is being designed. Walton has discussed with the architect how trash service may be provided in this dense multi-use development. Combining commercial service with residential and using trash compactors instead of dumpsters are options that the developer is

considering. It is anticipated that the designers will have a proposal for the next meeting. Walton has started working with Willimantic Waste Paper and the Mansfield Housing Authority to pilot a specially painted dumpster for recycling at Holinko Estates Apartments (instead of the 95 gallon recycling carts). If the pilot is successful, this may have a use at the Storrs Center project.

Walton stated that America Recycles Day is November 15. It was suggested that EcoHouse offer a trade-in of disposable water bottles with reusable ones and that the new electronics law be announced. Walton may promote a paperless day in all Town offices and waste-free lunches at the schools.

Staff will arrange the 2011 SWAC meetings for every other month on the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk